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Washington, D.C. 26.

Executive Registry

**86-** 4630X/1

14 October 1986

Dear Mrs. Keenan,

Thanks very much for your letter and the copy of your book, <u>Every Effort</u>. I found my meeting with you and your colleagues very worthwhile.

I have urged that John LeBoutellier be assigned to see what he can do for this cause and I will do so again now that the President and his advisors are back from their meeting in Iceland.

Yours,

WilWiam J.

Ms. Barbara Mullen Keenan

**STAT** 

The Honorable William Casey Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

Thank you very much for meeting with John LeBoutillier and the rest of our group last Thursday morning.

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As promised, I am enclosing a personal copy of my book EVERY EFFORT. I hope you will enjoy reading it. The book is my way of focusing attention on the tragedy of the men left behind in communist prisons in Southeast Asia.

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I firmly believe that Henry Kissinger is responsible for leaving these POWs held in Laos out of the peace accord of 1973. None of the administrations since then have publicly admitted this, nor have they explained what happened to these prisoners after 1973.

I do not understand why thousands of live sighting reports and hundreds of eyewitness reports do not constitute enough evidence to allow initiation of negotiation for the release of these captured men. Surely if there were as many reports of Americans being held prisoner in any other part of the world where servicemen were known to have been captured our country would feel compelled to free them.

I realize that your agency is an implementor of policy rather than an instigator of policy. I did feel a sincerity on your part however during our discussion; I believe you would honestly like to do something about these captive military men. Perhaps as a respected member of this administration you will be able to convey that concern to others.

The lives of these men - however many are still alive - have always been pre-empted by more "immediate" problems. Evidently politicians at either end of the political spectrum have not seen this as an easily solved issue. With a particular lack of courage they have instead avoided dealing with it if possible. Maybe this is why I respect John LeBoutillier. His passionate involvement with this cause has not enhanced his political career nor endeared him to some leaders of his own party. Yet he perseveres. His plan to find a face saving way for our country and Laos to return these men for some form of reparation is workable. He knows who to deal with in that country. His is a much needed fresh approach and I hope he will be given a chance to implement it.

Thank you again for graciously allowing us to meet with you.

Sincerely